

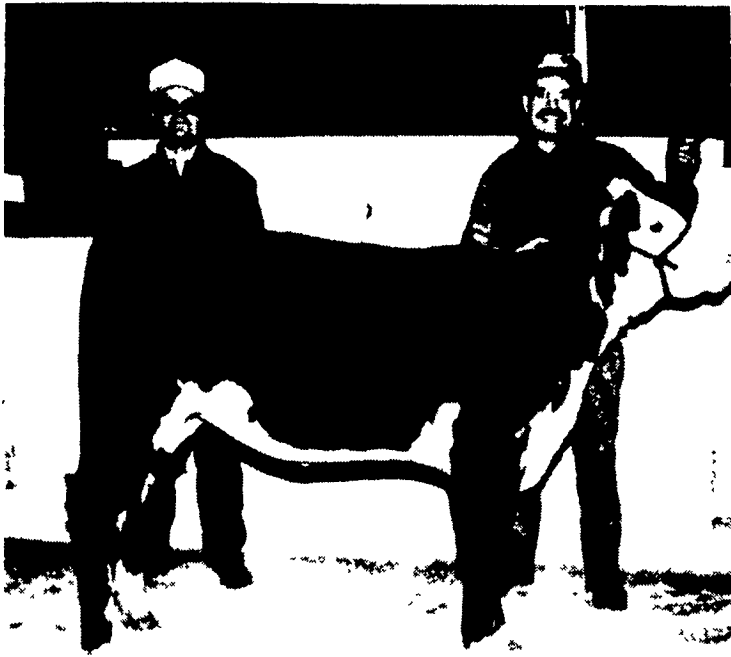
Lancaster Farmer Sells Top Dutch Country Calf Sale Steer

LEBANON — A Lancaster County beef farm consigned the top-grading and top-selling calf to the Dutch Country Calf Sale. Fritz Frey of Quarryville, who has exhibited Farm Show champions himself, showed a Chianina Angus crossbred steer, an April calf that brought \$860 from buyer Nelson Woolcock of Paxinos, Northumberland County. Frey's top-grading April crossbred steer, another Chianina Angus, brought \$685 from Jeff Bomgardner of Annville.

The top-grading purebred Angus steer was consigned by Gerry and John Gammel of Womelsdorf. This March 1988 calf sold to Rael Eberly of Newmans town for \$560. The top-selling Angus steer, also consigned by the Gammels, brought \$600 from Dick Kreider of Lebanon.

The champion purebred Polled Hereford steer was consigned by Deutschland Farm of Womelsdorf. This February calf sold to Vernon Miller of Hershey for \$510. Miller also bought the top-selling purebred Polled Hereford steer from Emilie Miller of Womelsdorf. This April calf sold for \$520. Miller was high-volume buyer of the sale.

Judge Cliff Orley, of Keystone Cattle Service in Lebanon picked a purebred Polled Hereford heifer as the top female of the sale. MAP Miss Jingle, a February daughter of Magador Sculptor 46R, out of a Magnification granddaughter, was consigned by MAP Farm of Womelsdorf. The heifer sold to Nancy Stumhofer of Orwigsburg for \$600.



The top-grading female at the Dutch Country Calf Sale was a Polled Hereford heifer consigned by MAP Farm of Womelsdorf. Owner Mike Firestone is at the halter.

The top-selling Polled Hereford heifer was consigned by Susan Smith, Rolling Shade Polled Herefords of East Greenville. This February daughter of RS Outrageous 226 sold for \$710 to Deutschland Farm of Womelsdorf.

The top-grading and top-selling Angus heifer was consigned by Kelly Bachman of Annville. This May daughter of Broadway sold to Brian Kreider of Lebanon for \$700.

Twenty-two steers went through the sale ring at the Lebanon Fairgrounds. Auctioneer Harry Bachman of Annville called the sale. Steers, representing crossbreds, Angus, and Herefords, averaged \$540 a head. Five purebred heifers also were

offered, averaging \$619 each. There were 45 registered buyers.

Consignors to the sale also included: Larry Arnold, Womelsdorf; Leon Arnold, Lebanon; Harry Bachman, Annville; Glenn Eberly, Bellefonte; James Huber, Myerstown; E.R. Osterstock, Lenhartsville; Salunga Acres, Mt. Joy; Elmer Stehman, Robesonia; Susquehannock Farm, Sunbury; and Travis Werley, Shoemakersville.

Other buyers were: Dee Otto, Schuylkill Haven; Roxanne Kirst, Fredericksburg; Dick Kreider, Lebanon; Ricky Manwiller, Robesonia; P.J. Shellenberger, Bird In Hand; Lester Stertz, Bernville; Amy Eshelman, Sinking Spring; Greg Stricker, Bernville; and Brian Wetzel, Kempton.



Fritz Frey, at halter, of Twin Oaks Farm in Quarryville, consigned the top-grading and top-selling steer of the Dutch Country Calf Sale. Judge Cliff Orley selected this Chianina-Angus cross calf as sale champion.

Beef Briefs



by
John Comerford
Penn State
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WRITING A CUSTOM FEEDING CONTRACT

With high prices for both feed and cattle, some cattle feeders have opted for custom feeding this year. A frequent question often results on how to write a feeding contract that satisfies both the feeder and the owner. There is no best or universal contract that will work in all situations, but there are a few key elements in one to help keep everybody happy.

• NAME THE PEOPLE INVOLVED. This is one point that may be overlooked, but, let's face it, this is a legal document that should name the parties involved. This designation should include who owns the cattle and who will be feeding and managing them. It also helps to give a detailed description of the cattle including any brands, tattoos, or ear tags. **HAVE A BEGINNING AND AN ENDING POINT.** There is everything to gain by describing the period of time that the contract is in effect. Open-ended contracts do exist; however, they will often put more of the cost on the feeder in certain types of contracts. Both parties should agree when the contract expires using some reasonable expectations of gain and markets.

• DETAIL THE FEED COST AND NUTRITION PROGRAM. This does not imply all costs are known before feeding. Instead, the cost of feed can be based on a weekly or monthly summary quote from a market. Additionally, the ration composition should necessarily change, so some detail should be provided to explain when changes will be made and what the composition of the diet will be. It is essential when high-forage diets are being fed to have frequent analysis made of the forage to determine the ration composition and cost of the feed.

• WHO HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HEALTH PROGRAM AND DEATH LOSS. Dissatisfaction with a custom feeder will occur when cattle die. It is essential that all the parties know what can be expected and who will have the responsibility for death losses and when the responsibility is incurred. In general, most feeders will not assume any cost for dead cattle, but con-

tracts do exist to prevent the complete disaster. In this case the feeder will assume some responsibility when losses reach a designated point. If there is any guarantee of vaccinations or some other pre-arrival treatment program, it should be spelled out. Some decision should be made on handling of the dead cattle including necropsy and disposal costs.

• HOW WILL THE WEIGHTS BE MADE. Contracts that are written on a per unit of gain basis should have a detailed procedure for taking weights. For example, will there be a pencil shrink, a shrunk weight at the feedlot, a market weight with no shrink, etc.? These weights should certainly be made over scales that have been certified for use in the sale of commodities.

• WHAT ARE THE PAYMENTS AND HOW ARE THEY TO BE MADE. The biggest surprise some first-timers have is the cost involved in feeding their cattle. Most custom feeders have to meet cash flow requirements like anybody else, so they collect payments to meet that need. The payment schedule usually involves a deposit up front, a monthly feed and yardage assessment, and a closeout bill. Feeders have the responsibility to provide accurate and timely reports on feed intake, veterinary costs, and gains of the cattle while they are still in the lots. This implies a good custom feeder has the means to weigh feed and cattle on a regular basis. The yardage cost is a daily per head cost associated with the overhead costs for the lot. This generally runs about 25 cents per head daily, but can go as high as 45 cents. Also, some states have some unique laws about who pays the taxes on custom-fed cattle. This, as well as insurance costs, should be detailed in the original contract. For everyone's protection, a clause should be added that details the sale of animals when the bills have not been paid.

• DESCRIBE THE MARKETING PROGRAM. The manner in which the cattle are marketed should be detailed, including what outlets will be used, what will determine the timing of marketing, what information will be provided to the owner, and how the owner will be paid.

PRV Update, Piglet Diseases Discussed At Swine Meeting

BY LISA RISSER

ROTHSVILLE (Lancaster) — After only 14 months, a Lancaster County hog farm has eliminated pseudorabies (PRV) from its herd. The farm, under the supervision of Dr. Timothy P. Trayer of Denver, conducted a random survey of its breeding swine and all animals tested negative using a pseudorabies-vaccine kit.

"The farm is still under quarantine, however," Trayer told swine producers during a meeting at the fire hall here. "It will be accepted (by the state) as PRV-free when there is federal approval on kit testing. We're hoping that will be in about 18 months."

The cleanup began shortly after the initial outbreak in August of 1987. Through a vaccination program, PRV-positive breeding animals were replaced with vaccinated hogs without disruption to the farmer's farrow-to-finish operation.

"I didn't interrupt the animal flow except with the death of piglets at the outbreak of the disease and when the young breeding stock at the time of the outbreak came into the herd," explained Trayer.

The success rate of an eradication program largely depends on several variables, according to Trayer, including the length of time PRV is in the herd; the number of PRV-positive herds in the area; the size of the herd, larger herds are more troublesome to clean up because of stress factors; and the other diseases that may be in the herd.

County outlook

During 1988 there were 65 PRV-positive swine in Pennsylvania: 64 of these are in Lancaster County and one is in Montgomery County. "The herd in Montgomery County belongs to animal activists who purchased two hogs from the Lancaster Stockyards," Trayer reported.

With the exception of that single out-of-county herd, PRV has stayed in the same geographic area. Another positive note is the state's increased flexibility this past year with PRV-elimination programs.

Hot piglet diseases

Two hot piglet diseases beginning to make an appearance in Pennsylvania are Coccidiosis and Clostridium Prefinges Type C. Moving eastward, the diseases were among the topics of conversation during the swine meeting. The session led off with William Ingalls, D.V.M., a swine extension veterinarian at Ohio State University.

Occurring in piglets aged 5 days to one-month old, Coccidiosis "was a minor disease a few years ago in Ohio," said Ingalls. "Now it's a hot disease."

There has been some incidence in Pennsylvania, with most cases unrelated to the type of swine facility it has invaded. The growing frequency of the disease, however, is reason enough for farmers to become aware of it and what to do about it.

Coccidiosis is caused by a parasite that gets into the intestinal tract through the mouth. In most cases it is spread when piglets eat the man-

ure of an infected animal. Soon after exposure, the piglets will develop scours.

"The death rate in coccidiosis is high," reported Ingalls. "Usually all in a litter die. Before death there is dehydration, a loss of condition, and poor feed conversion." Piglets look like poor-doers.

Cleanliness is important. "Some of the best money (a producer) can spend is on elevated farrowing crates with a woven wire or similar flooring," stated Ingalls. Elevated flooring will allow manure from infected animals to be eliminated rather than available to hungry piglets. If elevated flooring isn't a possibility, Ingalls recommends applying a layer of good straw daily.

Because spread of the infected manure many times is caused by walking from pen to pen, Ingalls suggests a separate pair of plastic overboots for each pen.

If a farmer spots a diarrhea outbreak in baby pigs that doesn't respond to ordinary measures, he should suspect coccidiosis. Once the disease has been identified, there isn't much that can be done. Prevention is a farmer's best course of action. He should first disinfect the building with a solution such as lye water, chlorine compounds, or ammonia.

The next preventative step to take is to use immunity-building drugs in sows. Veterinarians can use drugs approved for use on cattle.

Intestinal disease
Clostridium Prefinges Type C is

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